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IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

APPLICANTS:

Andrew Ahmad, et al.

SERIAL NO.:

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FILED:

January 30, 2001

FOR: Method for Middle-Tier Optimization

in Corba OTS

GROUP ART UNIT: 2152

EXAMINER: Li Zhen

CONFIRMATION NO: 9262

Mail Stop Amendment Commissioner for Patents P.O. Box 1450 Alexandria, VA 22313-1450 I hereby certify that this correspondence is being transmitted by facsimile to 703.746.7430 and 703.872.9306 addressed to: Mail Stop Amendment, Commissioner for Patents, PO Box 1450, Alexandria VA 22313-1450 on:

PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT

Sir:

Prior to examination, the Applicants respectfully request the following amendments to the above-identified application be entered as follows. The changes made are shown by underlining the added text and striking through the deleted text.

Amendments to the Claims begin on page 2 of this paper.

Remarks/Arguments begin on page 12 of this paper.

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